

A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AUTO-DETECTION OF LAN,
MODEM, OR ISDN UTILIZING A COMMON CONNECTION TO A
PERIPHERAL COMPONENT

5 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for allowing multiple types of connections to be made to a peripheral component. In one embodiment, the present invention provides a peripheral component with a receptacle having a number of electrical connecting lines. At least one of the electrical lines is
10 used as a signal line by more than one type of connection, which is made directly to the receptacle. Next, the present invention switches the electrical connecting lines between a number of electrical pathways. Next, the present invention determines the type of connection being made to the receptacle. In so doing, an electrical pathway which is appropriate for the
15 connection-type is established.